

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 23, as follows:

Encryption is one of the methods being used to protect data stored on computer systems. Several software and hardware solutions exist ~~[[than]]~~ that can encrypt part or all of the data on a hard disk, for example. In systems where software full-disk encryption is being used, the encryption software may be loaded either by the master boot record or the BIOS and then control the flow of data in and out of the disk, decrypting data flowing out of the disk and encrypting data flowing into the disk. The data is typically encrypted using a symmetric key, which may itself be encrypted for additional security. For example, on a computer system having a trusted platform module (TPM), the symmetric key may be encrypted by the TPM using each user's public key from a private-public key pair. The private key is securely stored within the TPM.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 21, line 13, as follows:

One of the preferred implementations of the invention is an application, namely, a set of instructions (program code) in a code module which may, for example, be resident in the random access memory of the computer. Until required by the computer, the set of instructions may be stored in another computer memory or computer operable medium, for example, on a hard disk drive, or in removable storage such as an optical disk (for eventual use in a CD ROM) or floppy disk (for eventual use in a floppy disk drive), or downloaded via the Internet or other computer network. Thus, the present invention may be implemented as a computer program product for use in a computer. In addition, although the various methods described are conveniently implemented in a general purpose computer selectively activated or reconfigured by software, one of ordinary skill in the art would also recognize that such methods may be carried out in hardware, in firmware, or in more specialized apparatus constructed to perform the required method steps.